

SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008

THE COURT MADE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISCELLANEOUS RECORD

M.R.20359 - In re: Duncan T. Smith. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board is denied. This matter is remanded to the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission for further proceedings, i.e., review by the Review Board.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22089 - In re: Betty Burns Paden. Disciplinary
22068 Commission.

(22089) The petition by respondent Betty Burns Paden for leave to file exceptions to the report and recommendation of the Review Board is denied. Respondent is disbarred and required to pay restitution to the estate of Frank Payton, Sr. for the total amount distributed at the closing of the building that should have been paid to the estate, plus interest, as recommended by the Review Board.

Order entered by the Court.

(22068) The motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Review Board is dismissed as moot.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22219 - In re: Lea Anne Sargent. Disciplinary
Commission.

The petitions by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and respondent Lea Anne Sargent for leave to file exceptions to the report and recommendation of the Review Board are denied. Respondent is suspended from the practice of law for thirty (30) days, as recommended by the Review Board.

Suspension effective June 9, 2008.

Respondent Lea Anne Sargent shall reimburse the Client Protection Program Trust Fund for any Client Protection payments arising from her conduct prior to the termination of the period of suspension.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22235 - In re: William Francis Haley. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board is allowed, and respondent William Francis Haley is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22236 - In re: Alexander Goldman. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board is allowed, and respondent Alexander Goldman is disbarred.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22278 - In re: Steven Ross Belcher. Disciplinary Commission.

The petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose reciprocal discipline pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 763 is allowed, and respondent Steven Ross Belcher, who has been disciplined in the State of Missouri, is suspended from the practice of law in the State of Illinois for six (6) months, stayed by six (6) months' probation subject to the conditions imposed by the Supreme Court of Missouri.

Respondent Steven Ross Belcher shall reimburse the Client Protection Program Trust Fund for any Client Protection payments arising from his conduct prior to the termination of the period of suspension/probation.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22280 - In re: George M. Petrich. Disciplinary Commission.

The petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose discipline on consent pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(b) is allowed, and respondent George M. Petrich is censured.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22283 - In re: Nathan Scott Conger. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board is allowed, and respondent Nathan Scott Conger is suspended from the practice of law for six (6) months and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22284 - In re: Roland Maurice Stewart. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board is allowed, and respondent Roland Maurice Stewart is disbarred.

Order entered by the Court.

Freeman, J., took no part.

M.R.22287 - In re: Roger H. Williams. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board is allowed, and respondent Roger H. Williams is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22301 - In re: Sandra Kay Coplien. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board is allowed, and respondent Sandra Kay Coplien is suspended from the practice of law for six (6) months and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22303 - In re: Jerald Michael Mangan. Disciplinary Commission.

The petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose discipline on consent pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(b) is allowed, and respondent Jerald Michael Mangan is suspended from the practice of law for two (2) years and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

Thomas, C.J., took no part.

M.R.22312 - In re: Patrick Michael Loftus. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board is allowed, and respondent Patrick Michael Loftus is disbarred.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22319 - In re: Steven H. Sosman. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board is allowed, and respondent Steven H. Sosman is suspended from the practice of law for two (2) years and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22324 - In re: James F. Baba. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by James F. Baba to strike his name from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a) is allowed, effective immediately.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22325 - In re: Robert Wayne Hallock. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by Robert Wayne Hallock to strike his name from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a) is allowed, effective immediately.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22326 - In re: Karl Malcolm Robertson. Disciplinary Commission.

The petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose discipline on consent pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(b) is allowed. Respondent Karl Malcolm Robertson is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year, with the suspension stayed after ninety (90) days by a one (1) year period of probation, subject to the following conditions:

a. Respondent shall attend meetings scheduled by the Commission probation officer as requested by the Administrator. Respondent shall submit quarterly written reports to the Administrator concerning the status of his practice of law and the nature and extent of his compliance with the conditions of probation, and provide supporting documentation as requested;

b. Respondent shall continue to make all reasonable efforts to locate and repay the individuals whose funds he converted and has not repaid, including Altee Peoples, Ruben Correa and Elizabeth Rodriguez, and Maria Sanchez Torres. At all times, respondent shall maintain an amount equal to the funds owed in his client fund account;

c. Respondent shall, within the first thirty (30) days of probation, enroll in the Chicago Bar Association's Law Practice Management Program, and be mentored by a lawyer-member(s) of the Chicago Bar Association's Lawyers' Management Assistance Committee during the period of probation;

d. Respondent shall, upon enrollment in the Law Practice Management Program, notify the Administrator, in writing, of the name of the attorney(s) with whom respondent is assigned to work;

e. Respondent shall continue to participate in the Law Practice Management Program throughout the probation term;

f. Respondent shall authorize the attorney(s) assigned to work with him in the Law Practice Management Program to:

i. Disclose to the Administrator on a quarterly basis, by way of signed reports, information pertaining to the nature of respondent's compliance with the Law Practice Management Program;

ii. Promptly report to the Administrator respondent's failure to comply with any part of the Law Practice Management Program;

iii. Respond to any inquiries by the Administrator regarding respondent's compliance with the Law Practice Management Program;

g. Respondent shall establish and utilize a system for handling funds belonging to clients and third parties that conforms to the requirements of Rule 1.15 of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct including:

Trust Account Procedures:

Basic accounting records that must be maintained daily and accurately.

Account Check Register: List sequentially all trust account deposits and trust account checks and maintain a current and accurate daily balance on the trust account.

Account Receipts Journal: List chronologically all deposits into the trust account. Each deposit will list the date of the deposit, the source of the deposit, the client matter, the deposit number, and the amount of the deposit. Maintain a copy of each item deposited.

Account Disbursement Journal: List chronologically all trust account disbursements. Identify each disbursement with the date of the disbursement check, the trust account check number, the payee, the purpose of the disbursement, the client matter, and the amount of the disbursement check.

Client Ledger Journal: List chronologically for each client matter all receipts, disbursements, and remaining balances. Prepare a separate page for each client matter and list chronologically all receipts and disbursements and remaining balances for each client matter.

Source documents which must be prepared for seven (7) years:

Bank statements.

Deposit slips.

Cancelled checks. All trust account checks must have a named payee (no checks written to "cash") and the memo portion of the check must contain a reference to a client matter.

Time and Billing Records:

Copies of records from client files that are necessary for a full understanding of the lawyer's financial transactions with the client: e.g., retainer and engagement agreements, settlement statements to clients showing the disbursement of the settlement proceeds, bills sent to clients and records of payments to other lawyers or non-employees for services rendered.

Reconciliations:

There must be a running balance maintained for all ledgers and account books. The balances in the client ledger journal must be reconciled each month with the balances in the trust receipts and disbursement journals, the account checkbook register, and the bank statements. Records of these reconciliations must be maintained for seven (7) years.

h. Respondent shall notify the Administrator within fourteen (14) days of any change of address;

i. Respondent shall comply with the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct and shall timely cooperate with the Administrator in providing information regarding any investigation relating to his conduct;

j. Respondent shall reimburse the Commission for the costs of this proceeding as defined in Supreme Court Rule 773 and shall reimburse the Commission for any further costs incurred during the period of probation;

k. At least thirty (30) days prior to the termination of the period of probation, respondent shall reimburse the Client Protection Program Trust Fund for any Client Protection payments arising from his conduct; and

l. Probation shall be revoked if respondent is found to have violated any of the terms of probation described in subparagraphs (a) through (k), and respondent shall be suspended for the balance of his one (1) year suspension, commencing on the date his probation is revoked.

Suspension effective June 9, 2008.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22329 - In re: Tracy Hensler Krizman. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to approve and confirm the report and recommendation of the Hearing Board is allowed, and respondent Tracy Hensler Krizman is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22339 - In re: William Francis Murphy. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by William Francis Murphy to strike his name from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a) is allowed, effective immediately.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22340 - In re: Joseph Frank Milito. Disciplinary Commission.

The petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission to impose discipline on consent pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(b) is allowed, and respondent Joseph Frank Milito is censured.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22344 - In re: David Michael Levin. Disciplinary Commission.

The petitions by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission and respondent David Michael Levin for leave to file exceptions to the report and recommendation of the Review Board are allowed. Respondent is suspended from the practice of law for eighteen (18) months and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22345 - In re: Kenneth R. Keeton. Disciplinary Commission.

The petition by the Administrator of the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission for leave to file exceptions to the report and recommendation of the Review Board is allowed. Respondent is suspended from the practice of law for six (6) months and until further order of the Court.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22356 - In re: Eric Phillip Ferleger. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by Eric Phillip Ferleger to strike his name from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a) is allowed, effective immediately.

Order entered by the Court.

M.R.22372 - In re: Jorge J. Vera. Disciplinary Commission.

The motion by Jorge J. Vera to strike his name from the roll of attorneys licensed to practice law in Illinois pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 762(a) is allowed, effective immediately.

Order entered by the Court.